



The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

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Matching Points

By Paul J. Gorski

For thirty-plus years, we have been awarding matching points for entries, such as tanks – 2 matched males and breeders – 3 females, 5 males, to determine the final outcome of these competitions. We have left the awarding of these points up to the subjective judgment of the judges and it has worked fairly well. At the last Judging Board meeting, it was decided that the time had come to base these competitions on an objective criteria to hopefully eliminate the confusion associated with allocating matching points.

Remembering that we can award up to ten (10) points per fish for matching characteristics, we developed the following guidelines for matching points:

3 points	body
3 points	dorsal
4 points	caudal

The application of these criteria is fairly simple; let's take a tank competition as an example. Your team has selected two entries as being the ones from which a winning tank will come. We assume that the point allocation determined by the team is equal. Tank A is subjected to the 3-3-4 rule. You ask yourself: does the body of each fish match the other, and to what extent does or doesn't it? Let's say they match very well – award three (3) points. Use the same method to examine the dorsal. You see a slight difference in dorsal shape and only award a two (2). Moving on to the caudal, you see a bit of color variation in two of the caudals and award it a three (3).

Add these, 3 + 2 + 3 to get a total of eight (8). Multiply this figure by two (2) (or more) to get sixteen (16) of the twenty (20) possible matching points. Repeat this process on the other entry and determine the point allocation awarded for matching. Assuming the two tanks were equal prior to this assessment, the difference in the matching points will identify the winner.

This process can be applied to any competition. You can point or plus/minus all entries to establish a benchmark and then move on to determine matching points.

While we do not attempt to establish hard criteria for judging, we do want to emphasize that an objective set of standards and procedures must be followed when judging all entries. The final decision, as always, rests in the ability of a judge to evaluate an entry against the established standards of the IFGA and not from his/her personal preference.

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Filtration

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